



## FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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*For Immediate Release*

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# Volunteers Save Trees in Neighborhood Parks

Recently, you may have observed small crews of gloved workers removing plants from your local parks. These rugged, hard working individuals are members of the Fairfax County Park Authority's Invasive Management Area (IMA) program. This all-volunteer program aims to restore the native woodland ecology in parks which have been overrun with non-native plant species. Pulling unwanted plants and temporarily clearing ground are the first steps in stopping their spread.

In 2006, over 875 IMA volunteers at 21 sites helped make the program's first year a tremendous success. They replanted over 300 native plants where invasives once thrived. This year the number of sites has grown to more than 35, so it's likely you'll see these intrepid volunteers at work in your neighborhood park.

If working in steamy forests with biting bugs and prickly plants sounds appealing, the IMA program is always looking for more volunteers. Information about the program can be found at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/IMA.htm>. The program also caters to corporations seeking community service projects. The hard work is great for team building!

If you have questions or would like to participate in the program, contact Kathy Frederick, IMA volunteer coordinator, at 703-324-8681 or [Katherine.Frederick@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Katherine.Frederick@fairfaxcounty.gov).

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